

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GABORO 01981 271522Z

47

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04

TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 AGRE-00 L-03

ITC-01 /062 W

----- 101824

R 271353Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8864

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EPAP, BC

SUBJECT: BOTSWANA BEEF EXPORTS

REF: GABORONE 1859 AND PREVIOUS

1. AS FOLLOW-UP TO REFTTEL, CHARGE' ON OCT. 23 SPOKE TO BOTSWANA MEAT COMMISSION DIRECTOR O.K. NIELSEN CONCERNING THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT GOB AND EEC HAD RECENTLY CONCLUDED TWELVE-MONTH AGREEMENT ALLOWING BOTSWANA BEEF INTO EEC AT GREATLY REDUCED IMPORT LEVIES.

2. NIELSEN SAID THAT EEC HAD EARLIER AGREED TO AN EIGHTEEN-MONTH GRADUATED AGREEMENT SAVERAGING OUT AT ABOUT AN 80 PER CENT DUTY REDUCTION. FOLLOWING POTITICAL PRESSURE BY SOME EEC COUNTRIES (READ FRANCE, GERMANY), THIS WAS CHANGED TO A ONE-YEAR AGREEMENT GRANTING A FULL 90 PER CENT REDUCTION. NIELSEN INDICATED HE WAS NOT AT ALL HAPPY AT THIS OUTCOME, SINCE "IT MEANS A SAVING TO US OF ABOUT 18 MILLION PULA (U.S. 20,700,000 DOLLARS) ANNUALLY".

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PAGE 02 GABORO 01981 271522Z

3. NIELSEN SAID HE AND GOB REPS STILL INTENDED TO PUSH HARD

AS THEY COULD FOR A TOKEN U.S. IMPORT QUOTA OF BOTSWANA BEEF
OF EVEN AS LITTLE AS 1,000 TONS ANNUALLY. HE SAID HE FULLY
UNDERSTOOD STRINGENT U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE VETERINARY
STANDARDS MILITATING AGAINST RELAXATION OF U.S. BAR TO UNCOOKED
AFRICAN BEEF. NONETHELESS, THE BOTSWANA DELEGATION WAS GOING
TO CHICAGO (AND LATER TO DENVER) WITH GUARDED OPTIMISM THAT
SOMETHING MIGHT BE DONE IN BOTSWANA'S FAVOR.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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From: GABORONE
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ISecure: 1
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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